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Message Text

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50
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-01 IO-04 /029 W
---------- 017527
P R 281130Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5937
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS GABORONE 1465

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BC
SUBJ: BDP GAINS TWO SEATS IN ELECTION, PRESIDENT SIR
SERETSE KHAMA RE-ELECTED

REF: GABORONE A-56 OF OCT. 8

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. BOTSWANA'S RULING BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP) GAINED TWO SEATS IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HELD OCT. 26. HIS EXCELLENCY SIR SERETSE KHAMA WAS THUS OVERWHELMINGLY RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA.

2. THE VOTING TURNOUT WAS GENERALLY LIGHT, WITH 33 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS GOING TO THE POLLS. WITH 48,748 VOTES (52,849 IN 1969), THE BDP NOW HOLDS 27 SEATS IN THE 32-ELECTED MEMBER PARLIAMENT. THE BOTSWANA INDEPENDENCE PARTY (BIP), WITH 3,086 VOTES (4,601 IN 1969) RETAINED ITS ONE SEAT. THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT (BNF), WITH 7,358 VOTES (10,362 IN 1969) LOST ONE SEAT, AND THE BOTSWANA PEOPLES' PARTY (BPP) WITH 4,197 VOTES (9,239 IN 1969) ALSO LOST ONE. ONE NEW SEAT HAD BEEN ADDED THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

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3. THE BDP ALSO MADE GENERAL GAINS IN LOCAL AND TOWN COUNCIL

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ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. AMONG THE MORE INTERESTING RACES, VICE-PRESIDENT Q.K.J. MASIRE HANDILY DEFEATED HIS BNF OPPONENT IN A CLOSELY-WATCHED RACE.

5. TOTALS BY CONSTITUENCY, AS WELL AS LOCAL RACES WILL BE POUCHED WHEN FINAL OFFICIAL RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE.
BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, BC, (KHAMA, SERETSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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